



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Pyrethroid Insecticides – CASQA comments on registration** - Many of the organochlorine pesticides such as DDT and aldrin were phased out years ago, at least in the U.S., due to persistence and toxicity toward non-target species. To some extent the organochlorine pesticides were replaced by the less persistent organophosphorus (OP) pesticides, which include diazinon and chlorpyrifos. These pesticides have also had problems and have faced increasing restrictions. Most uses of chlorpyrifos were phased out by the end of 2001 and as of January 1, 2005, all sales of diazinon were banned for outdoor, non-agricultural uses. In addition, a number of TMDLs are in development or have been adopted to address diazinon and chlorpyrifos toxicity in waterways. The restrictions placed on organophosphorus insecticides have led to greatly increased use of pyrethroid insecticides, however, these too are beginning to show evidence of environmental toxicity.

Pyrethroids adhere to particulate matter and are not generally found in the water column. Last year, a researcher from U.C. Berkeley found significant sediment toxicity caused by pyrethroids in streams receiving agricultural runoff. Continuation of this work has recently shown similar pyrethroid toxicity in residential runoff. [http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2005/oct/science/pt\\_pyrethroids.html](http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2005/oct/science/pt_pyrethroids.html) In addition, the Central Valley Board's ongoing pesticide sampling program for agricultural drains has identified some toxicity in sediments caused by pyrethroid insecticides. [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/monthly\\_board\\_report/0510eo.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/monthly_board_report/0510eo.pdf) (p. 20)

The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) is concerned that the U.S. EPA is not considering urban runoff as EPA completes risk assessments for the pyrethroid insecticides. CASQA recently sent a comment letter to EPA addressing permethrin, the first of the pyrethroids to be reviewed, and therefore precedent-setting. CASQA pointed out that, "The existing Federal pesticide registration processes unintentionally place the burden of addressing pesticide problems on local governments – who are severely limited by what they can technically do to keep pesticides out of runoff, as well as what they can legally do by Federal and State law." <http://www.casqa.org/resources/CASQA%20Comments%20on%20Preliminary%20Risk%20Assessment%20for%20Permethrin.pdf> Pesticide information pamphlet: <http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/pub/ow/PesticidesWQ.pdf>

**Enforcement – San Diego Regional Board retracts notices of violation** – *NewsFlash 05-40* described the notices of violation sent by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to San Diego county and the cities within county due to inadequate implementation of stormwater controls. Many of the cities objected and the Board voted 4-3 to retract the letters. One Board member urged the board's staff and local government to work together more closely. Article: [http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20051110/news\\_7m10rescind.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20051110/news_7m10rescind.html)

**303(d) List – Comment deadline extended** – The 303(d) list identifies impaired waterways for which total maximum daily loads (TMDL) must be prepared (see *NewsFlash 05-41* for more discussion). The deadline for comments on the draft 2006 list has been extended until January 17, 2006. The date for one of the associated workshops has also changed. Notice: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/303d\\_update/workshopnotice303d.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/303d_update/workshopnotice303d.pdf)

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